Statement

Allocation and Offtake of Foodgrains Under Food for Work
(Allotted Free of Cost)

(in tonnes)

	Allotment (Upto 9.8.2001)			Offtake (Prov.) (Upto 2.8.2001)		
	RICE	WHEAT	TOTAL	RICE	WHEAT	TOTAL
Chhattisgarh	507000	0	507000	407000	0	407000
Gujarat	31590	116515	148105	19185	69621	88806
Himachal Pradesh	11549	0	11549	7286	0	7286
Maharashtra	10000	40000	50000	5110	14368	19478
Madhya Pradesh	54424	158655	213079	39095	123846	162941
Orissa	150000	0	150000	131815	14617	146432
Rajasthan	0	739505	739505	0	477441	477441
Andhra Pradesh	300000	0	300000	0	0	0
TOTAL:	1064563	1054675	2119238	609491	699893	1309384

In case of Orissa Wheat Allocation of 20,000 Tonnes has been Converted into Rice Allocation but 14617 Tonnes of Lifting of Wheat has been reported.

National Foodgrains Distribution Policy

2597. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether in the absence of any uniform National Distribution Policy on foodgrains, the people are starving in many States and huge surplus of foodgrains mounting with FCI;

(b) if so, whether several experts have also urged Government to come out with a National Foodgrains Distribution Policy; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) Only about 15% to 20% of the total production of foodgrains in the country is procured by Food Corporation of India (FCI) and State Agencies for central pool. As such the supply of foodgrains to consumers under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) is only supplemental in nature.

In order to address the problems emerging from the changed scenario in the food sector, Government has decided to constitute a High Level Committee on 16th November, 2000 under the Chairmanship of Prof. Abhijit Sen, Ex-Chairman,

Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices to recommend a Long Term Grain Policy for the country. The Terms of Reference of the Committee are as follows:—

(i) Minimum Support Prices (MSPs) and Price Support Operations.

(ii) The Food Corporation of India (FCI) related issues.

(iii) Functioning of the Public Distribution System (PDS).

(iv) Grain Policy regarding buffer stocks, open market intervention and export/import.

(v) Allocation of foodgrains in Rural Development and other Welfare Programmes. The Committee has so far not submitted its final report.

Loss suffered by procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh

†2598. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether paddy and wheat procuring agencies in Madhya Pradesh have suffered losses;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government would take necessary steps to ensure that such procuring agencies do not suffer losses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (c) As per present policy, incidental charges for procurement of foodgrains for the Central Pool are fixed in consultation with the representatives of the State Government. The difference between the Economic Cost of the State Government and the Central Issue Price is reimbursed to the State Government as subsidy.

Export of subsidised wheat

2599. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has been reported that India has exported more subsidised wheat than it sold to the domestic poor living below the poverty line as PDS offtake dips below wheat-exports;

(b) if so, whether India has exported to South Korea, Malaysia, Bangladesh, UAE, Indonesia, Oman, Iraq and Philippines to the tune of 1.6 million whereas 1.2 tonnes were provided to the people living Below Poverty Line in the country; and

(c) if so, why this wheat was not provided to the people living Below Poverty Line?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.